

REMARKS

The disclosure is objected to because page 12, line 4, refers to "proximal coil wire 11" whereas reference numeral "10" is used to describe the "proximal coil wire" throughout the specification. The specification has been amended to correct this error. Removal of the objection to the specification is in order and is requested.

Claims 1, 3 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 4,934,380 to de Toledo (hereinafter: "de Toledo").

Claims 1, 3, 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 5,234,437 to Sepetka (hereinafter: "Sepetka").

Claims 1-3 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 5,551,444 to Finlayson (hereinafter: "Finlayson").

Claims 1, 4 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 5,640,970 to Arenas (hereinafter: "Arenas").

Claims 1, 3 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 5,833,631 to Nguyen (hereinafter: "Nguyen").

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation of claim 5 and claim 5 has been canceled. Claim 5 is not included in the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 over de Toledo, Finlayson, Arenas and Nguyen. Thus, these rejections of the claims are now moot.

Regarding the rejection of claims 1, 3, 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 over Sepetka, claim 1 has also been amended to include the limitation "(c) a distal end tip formed into a solid semi-spherical shape with its spherical surface being a distal end surface of the core wire and fixed to the respective distal ends of the core wire and the most distal coil wire". Support for this limitation can be found in the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 9, of the specification of the present application. Additional amendments have been made to claim 1 to provide proper antecedent basis for the claim terminology.

Sepetka discloses a detachable pusher-vasoocclusive coil assembly that is advanced through a catheter to a site within a vessel and is manipulated to detach the coil from the assembly (abstract). The assembly includes a vasoocclusive coil 13 and a pusher 12 that is threadedly coupled to the vasoocclusive coil. The pusher 12 comprises a proximal end segment 15, a main central core 16 and a tapered coil distal tip (col. 3, lines 19-23). The tip 17 of the pusher is composed of a first enlargement 18 on the

core, a second radial enlargement 19 at the very end of the core, and a helical coil 20 that extends between enlargements 18 and 19 about core 16 (col. 3, lines 35-39). The pusher 12 is not a guide wire and does not include a distal end tip formed into a solid semi-spherical shape with the spherical surface being a distal end surface of a core wire and fixed to the respective distal ends of the core wire and a distal coil wire of a plurality of coil wires as recited in claim 1 of the application.

The detachable pusher-vasoocclusive coil of Sepetka, therefore, does not include each of the limitations of claim 1 and Sepetka cannot support a case of anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Notwithstanding that insufficiencies of Sepetka to support a case of anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102, it is also noted that although the length of the coil 13 is described in Sepetka as being in the range of 0.5 to 60 cm, and the pusher is described as being about 100 to 200 cm in length with the core segment 16 being 90-95% of the length of the pusher, the length of the helical coil 20 is not described and the extent of the insertion of the tapered portion of the helical coil 20 into the receiving end portion of coil 13 is neither described nor suggested.

PATENT APPLN. NO. 10/825,422
RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

**PATENT
NON-FINAL**

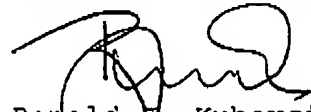
Removal of the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejections of the claims and a notice of allowability are in order and are respectfully requested.

The foregoing is believed to be a complete and proper response to the Office Action dated December 1, 2005, and is believed to place this application in condition for allowance. If, however, minor issues remain that can be resolved by means of a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

In the event that this paper is not considered to be timely filed, applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for any such extension may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 111833.

In the event any additional fees are required, please also charge our Deposit Account No. 111833.

Respectfully submitted,
KUBOVCIK & KUBOVCIK



Ronald D. Kubovcik
Reg. No. 25,401

Atty. Case No. NPR-153
The Farragut Building
Suite 710
900 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
Tel: (202) 887-9023
Fax: (202) 887-9093
RJK/jbf